

Camp 27

Source: LSL-33; dated July 1945; Detailed Interrogation Report of Johann SANITZER, Gestapo, Vienna, Section VI 2.

Training of NKVD Agents:

- a. Radio-Communications training: This was generally given in a group of bungalows in a suburb of Moscow or in another group of houses in KUSHNARENKO (?). Each bungalow housed about five or six agents. Agents of the same nationality were as a rule not put in the same bungalows. They had to adopt a cover name and were expressly forbidden to reveal their private backgrounds. No student was allowed to travel to Moscow while training at the radio school.

The radio-communication curriculum consisted of: sending and receiving (minimum 16 groups per minute); contacts with an unidentified station; trouble shooting, construction of receivers and transmitters. The course lasted from six to nine months. A three day cipher course was given by NKVD officials, previous to the departure of the agent in the field.

- b. Intelligence training: each student received individual instruction by NKVD officials in their own quarters. The principal subject was "agent lore": how to make caches, how to establish a "letter-box" how to "shake a tail" (get rid of surveillance); selection and execution of revs, etc. A thorough course in diversionary methods (sabotage) was given where the students were instructed in the handling of explosives safety fuse, primacord, explosive caps and the field expedients for the use of demolitions (for instance, the use of artificial fertilizer, etc. practical demolitions were held at a place which agents could not remember). A thorough course in the firing of hand weapons was given. Another course instructed agents minutely about the customs and the political and economical situation of the target-country. This was especially destined to students, who had left their own country, in which they were to be dropped, quite a long time ago (for instance, how to register in a hotel, etc.). There was a continuous instructional program about the world political situation. Another subject described thoroughly the organization and the armament of the target-country's army.

In the camp 27, this instructional program was still augmented by general instruction on political economics, dialectical Marxism, German and/or Austrian history, Russian history and the history of the Communist party.

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Training of agents of the Russian Army (Frontaufklarungstruppen) was rather short, (about two months) and was held in mobile schools near the front-lines. The main subject was military organization of the enemy. No radio-communication schools were there, as the W/E area had already been fully trained before arriving there.

The existence of Camp No. 27 became known to subject in May 1943 through the Russian agent Angermann of the Funkspiel "Feldinorf". Apparently it was a concentration or holding area for all POW's who were to be trained as propagandists, Partisans, or secret agents. There were three areas or "zones": propagandists, Partisans, or secret agents. There were three areas or "Zones": area one held the candidates, while they were generally examined and screened; area two; training area for propagandists; area three: training area for secret agents. The recruiting of candidates for Camp # 27 seems to have followed the same pattern: as soon as a German had been captured he was before a German officer who was a member of the National Committee "Freies Deutschland". This officer would undertake his first interrogation and endeavour to recruit the POW for the National Committee with the promise of better treatment and many privileges. If the POW accepted he was screened about his possible use in a special mission. If he was thought capable, he was then sent either to Camp no 27 or to a Frontschool. According to Angermann the POW was screened by NKVD officials at the hqs of the MOSCOW NKVD (in 1943), then housed temporarily in the NKVD jail before being sent to Camp 27. Later on, the POW was sent directly to camp no 27 where he was screened in area one. This generally took the form of personal interrogations, denunciations by fellow-prisoners and the observation of the POW's reaction on certain political provocations. While being in area one, the POWs would be "instructed politically" through meetings, anti-fascists clubs, pamphlets, newspapers, etc. This political indoctrination was apparently only done by Russian experts.

Parachute training for the agents of the NKVD was held on an airfield in the neighborhood of Moscow. The program consisted of a theoretical course (explanation of the parachute, etc.) and a practical course, consisting of jumps from a mock-up and two jumps from an airplane, flying at a height of about 500 m. A few weeks sometimes elapsed between the two courses.